

MEETING SUMMARY: ITS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Time and Location

The first ITS Advisory Council meeting for the *Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan Update* was held on April 17, 2001 at the Marriott Hotel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Meeting Attendees

The following persons attended the meeting:

Advisory Council Members/Representatives

- ☐ Robert Canfield, Private Consultant
- ☐ Elizabeth Delaney, PB Farradyne
- ☐ Steve Glascock, DOTD
- ☐ Tony Tramel, Lafayette Consolidated Government
- ☐ John Broemmelsiek, FHWA
- ☐ Steve Strength, DOTD
- ☐ Huey Dugas, CRPC

Non-Member DOTD Staff

- ☐ Denny Silvio, DOTD
- ☐ Bruce Easterly, DOTD
- ☐ Bobby Hennigan, DOTD
- ☐ Donna Lavigne, DOTD
- ☐ Art Rogers, DOTD/LTRC
- ☐ Emily Callender-Jefferson, DOTD

Consultant Team Members

- ☐ Rob Hebert, Wilbur Smith Associates (Presenter/Facilitator)
- ☐ Butch Babineaux, Wilbur Smith Associates
- ☐ Jim Amdal, University of New Orleans
- ☐ Mike Heath, Alliance Transportation Group
- ☐ J.D. Allen, Alliance Transportation Group

Others

- ☐ John Guignard, Guignard Brodynamics
- ☐ Shelby LaSalle, Krebs LaSalle LeMieux Consultants, Inc.
- ☐ Walter Brooks, RPC

Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to provide Advisory Council members with an overview of the Plan Update, a review of ITS related elements discussed at the first Statewide Transportation Conference held in New Orleans on July 31-August 1, 2000, and to discuss strategic issues and suggested changes to the overall goals and objectives included in the 1996 *Statewide Intermodal Transportation Plan (SITP)*.

Summary of Meeting Comments

Important items discussed at the meeting are summarized as follows:

- ❑ There are several recently completed and ongoing ITS studies that should be considered and incorporated in the Plan Update including: Louisiana ITS Business Plan (LTRC, 2000), Louisiana CVO/ITS Business Plan (LTRC), and Louisiana ITS Strategic Plan (LDOTD, ongoing), as well as ITS studies and projects in major urban areas such as New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette and Shreveport. The statewide studies include ITS related goals and objectives, needs assessments, strategic initiatives and recommended improvements that should be referenced to and made part of the Plan Update as appropriate.
- ❑ Attendees supported the concept of using the Louisiana CVO/ITS Business Plan Strategies and Goals developed in December 2000 (Section 4 of that report) as the primary source for amending ITS elements into the updated state transportation plan.
- ❑ ITS improvements should be considered the ideal mechanisms for making the State's transportation system more efficient and smarter with the limited available financial resources.
- ❑ The word "safe" should be added to Goal 1.
- ❑ Consideration should be given to developing separate goals for ITS or adding related objectives specific to ITS.
- ❑ The Plan Update should identify specific areas and corridors where ITS should be considered. Quantitative performance measures should also be developed and used to evaluate ITS measures.
- ❑ ITS improvements should be considered for all transportation modes including highways, surface passenger transportation, freight and passenger rail, and trucking.
- ❑ One of the two automated weigh stations currently in service shown in element T-4 is I-12 near Baptist not I-10 near Breaux Bridge as indicated.
- ❑ ITS compatibility, standardization and modal interface throughout the State are extremely important.
- ❑ Public (and media) education of ITS especially through the Internet should be a high priority.

- ❑ The “Fog” project (variable message signs along I-10 over the Atchafalaya and Bonnet Carre Floodways and Lake Pontchartrain in New Orleans) is scheduled to be let in the fall of 2001. Variable message signs are also planned along I-49 as well as I-20 in Shreveport.
- ❑ LDOTD has just established a local and statewide ITS implementation policy that will be distributed to appropriate agencies and organizations soon.
- ❑ The State needs to develop ITS applications to reduce conflicts between vehicular and rail traffic. There are numerous signalized locations adjacent to rail lines throughout the state with no pre-emption.
- ❑ Council members elected Tony Trammel, Director of Transportation for the City of Lafayette, as Chairman. In this capacity, Tony will represent the ITS Advisory Council and attend the Statewide Transportation/Economic Development Policy Commission meetings.